THE

Present War

NO

BURTHEN

TO

England.

LONDON,

Printed and Sold by *Randal Taylor* near *Amen-Corner*, 1692.

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JOURNEY

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The Present War No Burthen to *England*.

SOme sort of People having wearied out themselves, in finding fault with the Government, and reviling sometimes the *Dutch*, as ready to strike up a private Peace; sometimes the whole Body of the *Allies*, as none of them having done their Duty: The general Cry of that Party now is, That Money being carryed abroad for the Payment of our Forces, it will in time exhault the Treasure of the Nation, and impoverish it: Which seems so palpable a thing, and begins to gain so much ground upon the Belief of many (otherwise well-affected) People, That a longer delay in shewing the falsity of that Notion, might seem of a dangerous Consequence: Therefore I think it will not be improper, to prove, That the War increasing our Trade, and occasioning a greater Vent and Exportation of our Manufactures, and of the Product of our Ground, enriches the Nation, and augments its Stock.

In the *First* Place, The Vent of our Woollen Manufactures is greater than heretofore, which appears not only by that it is generally advanced in Price, but in that there is a greater Quantity now exported than in Times of Peace, as may be seen by the Entries in the Custom-houses.

Secondly, The Manufactures of Silk, Linnen, Paper and others, have since the War been considerably forwarded; there is no longer need of importing flowr'd and mixt Silks, good quantity of plain Silk is made here, as likewise of Linnen and Paper, which saves and keeps so much Money in the Nation, as formerly was sent out to purchase those Commodities.

Thirdly, Corn, (which by the Blessing of God hath been hitherto plentiful amongst us, although very scarce amongst our Neighbours) Tobacco, Sugar, and many others the Products of our Ground, bear a better Price than they should in a peaceable Time, by the greater Exportation abroad; The *Netherlands* alone taking more of these Commodities and of our Manufactures, than what is remitted thither for the maintaining of our Forces, comes to; I say, taking more, over and above what they did in time of Peace. For how can it be imagined that so small a Tract of Ground, as the *Spaniards* have left in the *Low-Countries*, which doth not extend to above Thirty Miles in Breadth, and an Hundred Miles in length, and which by the great and numerous Armies that continually harass it, yields little or nothing; should suffice to maintain Two Hundred

dred Thousand Men and Horses of the *Allies*, besides the Inhabitants of eleven great Towns, and of an innumerable quantity of Villages, Castles, and Strong-holds: Certainly that prodigious Number of People must be supported and maintained from the Neighbouring Countries. The *Dutch*, indeed, supply them in a good measure, (for otherwise being obliged to send Money thither for the payment of their Forces, their Treasure also would in time be exhausted, and they impoverish't) but they draw the greatest part of their Maintenance from us; our Wheat, our Malt, our Oats, our Tobacco, our Sugar, go thither for their Food; our Cloth, our Serges, our Bayes, our Stockings, our Hats, are sent them for their Cloathing; our Coals for their Fuel; our Lead, our Powder, our Arms, for their Warlike Service; our Tallow, our Pewter, our Leather, and Thousands of other Things, for their other necessary Uses: Nay, our Wine, our Brandy, our Salt, (that we take from our Enemies as Prize, and which otherwise would be destroyed) are sent and vended amongst them, and the Money it produces turned to the Nations Advantage; So that the fifty or sixty Thousand Pounds a Month we remit thither for the Payment of our Forces, comes Monthly to us again for the Payment of all those Necessaries; from whence perhaps this Inference might be drawn, that the more Forces we send into *Flanders*, provided the *Allies* do send an answerable Number, the Better *England* will fare, and the Richer grow.

Fourthly, Trade in general is much increas'd.

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1. The *Plantations* and *West-Indias* Trade is no less, but rather better; That of *Jamaica* especially, which is now Treble of what it was before the War, by the great Transportation of Linnen, and other things from that Island, to the Coast of *Terra Ferma* of *America*.

2. That of *Turkey* is as considerable, there going now as much Cloth for *Turkey* in one Fleet, as formerly did in two or three Years.

3. That of *Spain* as good, we now sending thither some of the Commodities the *French* used to carry into *Spain*, and drawing from thence, Wines and other Commodities in a greater quantity than heretofore.

4. The Trade to *Italy* is considerably Increased, not only by our getting from thence more Paper and Silk; (this last for the carrying on our Manufactures here at Home) but likewise by our sending thither abundance of Cloth, and other woollen Manufactures; Lead, Tin, Leather, and other things for the service and cloathing of the Forces in *Piedmont*, the *Milanez*, and other parts of *Italy*. The Islands of *Sicily* and *Sardinia*; The Kingdom of *Naples*, and the State of *Milan*, by the prohibition of *French* Commodities, drawing now from us several sorts of Goods which they usually got out of *France*.

5. That of *Portugal* hath received a considerable Improvement; We fetching from thence more Wines than

than we did formerly, and ſending thither in Return, a much greater quantity of Lead, Tin, Coperas, Serges, Bayes, Sayes, &c. than in time of Peace.

6. The Trade to all Northern parts, as *Ruſſia*, *Sueden*, *Denmark*, *Norway*, is more conſiderable, by our greater importation of Hemp, Pitch, Tar, and other products of thoſe Cold clymates.

7. The *Germany* Trade, as that of *Dantſick*, *Lubeck*, *Hambourg*, *Bremen*, is three times what it was heretofore, by the great quantities of Linnen we import from thence, not only for our own Uſe, but likewiſe for Tranſportation to *Jamaica* and *Spain*; as alſo becauſe we ſend them more Cloth, and all other Woollen Manufactures, more Tin, Lead, Coals, Wines, Brandy and Salt, than we uſed to do.

8. That of *Holland* and *Flanders*, what a vaſt addition hath it not received? By the prodigious quantities of Corn of all ſorts, Sugar, Tabocco, Tin, Lead, Coals, Cloth, Bayes, Sayes, Serges, Stuffs, Stockings, &c. of our own Manufacture and Product, we ſend thither; in ſuch a degree, that where there was formerly one Veſſel Trading between the *Netherlands* and the Iſland of *Great Britain*, there is now Scores of Ships imployed in the mutual Service of both Countries.

9. The Trade of *France* indeed is leſſen'd, but is much more advantagious: Our Money (and in a conſiderable quantity too) was yearly ſent to that Kingdom for its Products, whereas now whatever we

we get of *French* Commodities costs us nothing, but is sold by our Privateers, and Merchants concern'd with them, in *Flanders* and *Germany*, for good Money, which is so much profit, that accrues to the Nation.

In fine, it appears by the Custom's Books, That we export more, and that the Customs yearly render more than they did in Time of Peace: There being not one Forreign Commodity of any kind, wanted here amongst us, nor any of ours, that our Friends are not supplyed with: And (which is Remarkable) Trade is not thus generally increased; but notwithstanding our many (and so much talk of) Losses, 'tis much better than in time of Peace, it being Noted, that since the War, not above four or five Merchants of any Name, have gone off th' Exchange; whereas there yearly broke some dozens, if not some Scores in Peaceable times.

And although the Ships our Enemies have taken from us, be many (which there is good ground to hope, by our late Signal Victory at Sea, and the burning of so many Enemies Capital Ships, will in a good measure be prevented for the future) 'tis certain that most of them have been Re-taken by us, or by our friends; for if it be true, that the *French* have little Trade, and few Ships of their own; how doth it happen, that our Privateers, and those of *Zealand*, *Ostend*, *Brandenbourg* and *Biscay*, have taken so many prizes as amount to no less than Twenty Five Hundred Ships, unless we have Re-taken our own; And indeed the *French* do little brag of their

their Profits by Sea, there being Letters writ from *France*, and writ very feelingly too, that ſay, thoſe damn'd *Zeelanders* have not left us one Ship to Trade withall: And if I am rightly inform'd, although their Trade be ſmall, Shipping however is ſo very ſcarce amongſt them, that they want Veſſels to carry on that inconſiderable Trade they have, and upon the leaſt Occaſion muſt hire *Danes* and *Suedes*, and ſometimes force them too, to Carry their Goods and proviſions from one Port of *France*, to the other.

If from Trade, we turn our thoughts to other parts of the Nation; is there any Sort, or Rank of People that can complain they ſuffer: The Wages and Salaries of labouring-men are rather higher than in time of Peace: The Handycraft-men want no Work, and vend it eaſily, and at good Rates; Nay, ſeveral Handycrafts are ſet up by the War, which are needleſs in times of Peace: The Farmer ſells his Corn, his Timber, his Hops, his Cattel, better than at any other time, and thereby is enabled to pay better his Rent: The Shop-keeper hath as good and as great a Retail: The Rich-money'd-man an Opportunity of Lending his Money to a better Advantage: The Land-man indeed muſt pay Taxes, and if the Tax were equally laid, a ſmall Share of his Revenue, (which is the only viſible hardſhip); but in lieu thereof, how many Gentlemen are there, that have Imployments, and by thoſe Imploys, get more than they give towards the War? What Family is there, that hath not either a Brother, a Son, or ſome other near Relation in

the Fleet, or in the Army? And thereby is put in a Capacity not only of maintaining, but of raising it self: Many a Younger Brother, that in time of Peace had been ready to ſtarve, hath now by the War, Hundreds to ſpend a year; Nay, many Vagabonds, and other idle people of the Nation, have by the War an Opportunity of Honeſtly and Lawfully getting a lively-hood in the ſervice of their Country.

War is ſaid to be a Curſe to a Nation, 'tis true, but 'tis only ſo, where the Seat of War is, where all is Committed to Plunder, Rapine, Fire, Flames and utter Deſolation. But how many Nations have Raiſed their Name, and Rendred themſelves Famous and Rich by War? The *Perſians*, *Macedonians*, *Romans*, *Swedes*, are Memorable inſtances of it, who all grew Great, Potent and Rich by their Wars.

The *Dutch*, when they form'd themſelves into a Common-wealth, were a handful of people, and had neither Ships, Money, or Strong Towns to boaſt of; but under the ever Auſpicious Conduct of the Princes of *ORANGE*, and by a fourſcore years *Spaniſh* War; They grew to that vaſt Wealth and Immenſe Grandeur, we have ſeen them arrived at.

And what have not Advantagious Wars brought into this Nation? Our Conqueſts in the *weſt-Indies*, have for certain advanced our riches: The Fifty years War of *Edward* the Third againſt *France*, coſt *England* an immenſe Treaſure, and yet all our

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Chronicles ſay, *England* was never ſo rich as in his time: Our great Queen *Elizabeth* had not always a peaceable, though a happy and a golden Reign: *Oliver* was not in Peace, whilſt he govern'd; but no body then complained the Nation grew poor, every body was ſenſible it grew Rich: And had not the *Richards*, the *Henries*, and others our Heroick Princes, Render'd by their Wars abroad the Engliſh Name formidable throughout the world? I don't know, what our laſt Thirty-years-peace, would have brought us to, and whether we had been not the prey of a Neighbouring Prince, otherwiſe greedy and Powerful enough, but who perhaps was daunted by the remembrance of our Ancient Valour; and the glorious Atchievements of our Anceſtors.

FINIS.